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O R 040745Z MAY 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6419
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1672
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUA HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO/
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLS IT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 KABUL 0765

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE HAGUE FOR
A-DAM AND R-DAM.

E.O. 12356: DECL 05/04/93
TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, UR, AF
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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 27 - MAY 4, 1987

REF: KABUL 0727 /

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN
ISLAMABAD, PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER

PAGE NO. 1

CONCENTRATING ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FOR
PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY: RELIABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT COMBINED
UNITS OF VARIOUS MUJAHIDIN GROUPS INFLICTED A SERIOUS DEFEAT ON
SOVIET FORCES IN LATE APRIL FIGHTING IN NANGARHAR: MUJAHIDIN
REPORTEDLY CAPTURED 28 SOVIET TROOPS AND DOWNED FIVE
HELICOPTERS AND TWO FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT IN THE ACTION; REPORTEDLY
FIFTY SOVIET TROOPS DIED IN TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING. NUMEROUS AFGHAN
SOURCES REPORT PROTRACTED FIGHTING IN MAIDAN SHAHR, LESS THAN 40 KMS
FROM KABUL, FOLLOWING MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS ON SOVIET AND DRA CAMPS.
HEAVY FIGHTING IS ALSO REPORTED IN KUNAR, WHERE THE PROVINCIAL
CAPITAL IS REPORTED UNDER VIRTUAL SIEGE, AND IN GHAZNI. IN BALKH
MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED MAZAR-I-SHARIF. SOVIET AND DRA FORCES
BOMBARDED VILLAGES IN THE SHOMALI THROUGH MUCH OF THE REPORTING WEEK.
DIPLOMATS REPORT RESUMPTION OF PRESS GANG OPERATIONS IN KABUL
THOUGH THE SCOPE IS NOT YET KNOWN. THE REGIME APPEARS CAUGHT IN A WEB
OF CONFUSION REGARDING ITS CLAIMS OF RETURNING REFUGEES. REGIME
FIGURES VARY BY AS MUCH AS FIFTY PERCENT. ACCORDING TO A WELL-
SOURCED REPORT, THE NEXT ROUND OF PROXIMITY TALKS, TENTATIVELY
SET FOR MAY, WILL NOT TAKE PLACE. THE REGIME CELEBRATED THE 9TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE "SAUR REVOLUTION" WITH A PARADE THAT WAS SHRILLY
ANTI-AMERICAN. A SOVIET GUEST OF HONOR STOOD ON THE REVIEWING STAND
NEXT TO NAJIB. THE CITY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH ONLY SIX SOLID
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REPORTS OF INCOMING ROCKETS. CONVOY ACTIVITY WAS OFF MARKEDLY FROM THE
PREVIOUS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS: KABUL REMAINED RELATIVELY
QUIET WITH SIX PROBABLY INCOMING ROCKET SALVOS
REPORTED. SOVIET SECURITY MEASURES PRECEDING AND
FOLLOWING THE APRIL 27 "SAUR REVOLUTION" CELEBRATION
WERE TIGHTENED BUT DRA SECURITY WITHIN THE CITY APPEARED TO BE
MORE LAX.

-- APRIL 26: A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTED THAT IN KARTE CHAR
MUJAHIDIN EXECUTED TWO AFGHANS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN
"SPYING" FOR THE SOVIETS. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED HEAVY SOVIET
SECURITY IN PLACE ON THE EVE OF THE DRA CELEBRATION OF
THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "SAUR REVOLUTION." SOVIET
ARMORED VEHICLES WERE POSITIONED OVERNIGHT AT KEY FACILITIES
AND INTERSECTIONS, INCLUDING RADIO AFGHANISTAN AND AT THE
SOVIET REHABILITATION CENTER ON PERIMETER ROAD.

-- APRIL 27: AFGHAN AUTHORITIES CORDONED OFF MOST OF
THE JADI MAIWAND AREA WHERE "SAUR REVOLUTION" CEREMONIES WERE
HELD. SECURITY WAS ACTIVE ON JALALABAD ROAD AND ON THE SALANG
ENTRANCE TO NORTHERN KABUL. A DRA BTR AND UNUSUALLY
AGGRESSIVE DRA CHECKPOINTS WERE OBSERVED ON JALALABAD ROAD
AT 0450. SARANDOI TROOPS SCRUTINIZED ALL INCOMING

VEHICLE TJAFFIC IN NORTHERN KABUL AS OF 0520. A RELIABLE
DIPLOMAT REPORTS ONE BOMB EXPLODED SOUTH OF THE SPORTS STADIUM
DURING THE PARADE. (THIS REPORT COULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMED.)
ONE OF THE DRA MIG-21'S EXECUTING A FLY-OVER MANEUVER
DURING THE PARADE, CREATED A SONIC BOMB WHICH BROKE WINDOWS
IN DIPLOMATIC AND PRIVATE RESIDENCES THROUGHOUT WAZIR AKBAR KHAN.
A DIPLOMAT HEARD MACHINEGUN FIRE IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN AT 2345.

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O R 040745Z MAY 87
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HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO/
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACOILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
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-- APRIL 28: A DIPLOMAT REPORTED MACHINE GUN FIRE IN
WAZIR AKBAR KHAN AT 1530.

-- APRIL 30: A DIPLOMAT HEARD AN EXPLOSION SOUTHEAST OF
THE AIRPORT AND SAW A DUST PLUME IN THE AREA AT 0820.

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-- MAY 1: A DIPLOMAT REPORTED AN EXPLOSION AT 0001 AND
0100. OVERNIGHT, A SOVIET BRDM MAINTAINED A DEFENSIVE POSITION
IN FRONT OF RADIO AFGHANISTAN. ALTHOUGH MANNED BY A SOVIET
CREW, IT DISPLAYED TWO SMALL DRA FLAGS.

-- MAY 2. DIPLOMATS REPORTED THREE EXPLOSIONS AT 0030 AND AT
0130. BOTH SETS OF EXPLOSIONS APPARENTLY WERE INCOMING ROCKETS.
DIPLOMATS HEARD SINGLE EXPLOSION AT 0950 AND 1025. A DIPLOMAT
OBSERVED TRACER FIRE FROM A SOVIET ARMOR REPAIR FACILITY ON

PERIMETER ROAD AT 2130. HE ALSO REPORTED SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES MAINTAINING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ALONG THE ROAD.

-- MAY 3 DIPLOMATS IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN REPORTED AN EXPLOSION AT 0857, PROBABLY CAUSED BY AN INCOMING ROCKET. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTED THREE SOVIET-CREWED BMP-2'S MAINTAINING A DEFENSIVE POSITION AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA

(A) (AIR): HIGH WINDS APPEARED TO HAVE PRECLUDED AIR ACTIVITY ON ONE DAY AND KEPT IT AT LOW LEVELS ON SEVERAL OTHER DAYS.

-- APRIL 29: A TOTAL OF SEVEN IL-76 ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES WERE NOTED DURING THE DAY. DURING THE EVENING FOUR TO SIX HELICOPTERS LEFT KABUL AIRPORT HEADED SOUTHWEST. AIR ACTIVITY OVERNIGHT WAS RELATIVELY HEAVY.

-- APRIL 30: A DIPLOMAT REPORTED THE DEPARTURE OF FOUR TO SIX HELICOPTERS FROM KABUL SOUTHWEST DURING THE EVENING. EARLIER FROM ABOUT 1330 A DUST STORM VIRTUALLY SHUT DOWN KABUL AIRPORT. BEFORE THAT A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING AIR MOVEMENT:
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FIFTEEN AN-12'S, EIGHTEEN SOVIET AN-26'S, AND FIVE DRA AN-26'S; ARRIVALS: NINE AN-12'S, FOUR DRA AN-26'S AND TWO DRA MI-8'S FROM THE SOUTHWEST AT 0830, TWO DRA MI-8'S FROM THE SOUTHWEST AT 1020, TWO DRA MI-8'S FROM THE SOUTHWEST AT 1024 AND FOR MI-8'S FROM THE SOUTHWEST AT 1510.

-- MAY 1: DUE TO HIGH WINDS THERE WAS NO AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY.

-- MAY 2: DURING THE EVENING, FOUR TO SIX HELICOPTERS DEPARTED KABUL AIRPORT IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION.

-- MAY 3: TWO MI-8'S AND TWO MI-24'S ARRIVED FROM THE SOUTHWEST AT 1500. TWO SOVIET RED CROSS PLANES (AN-26) ARRIVED FROM THE SOUTHWEST AT 1710.

(B) (VEHICULAR MOVEMENT): CONVOY ACTIVITY IN THE KABUL AREA WAS DOWN FROM THE UNUSUALLY HIGH LEVELS OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. ABSENCE OF OUTGOING CONVOY ACTIVITY MAY 1 MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF HIGH WINDS WHICH PRECLUDED HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR CONVOYS (SEE PARA 5A, MAY 1).

-- APRIL 28: DIPLOMATS OBSERVED A SOVIET COLUMN OF 36 TEN-WHEELED COVERED TRUCKS (VEHICLE UNIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 0012) HEADED EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD AT 0615. IT WAS EXCORTED BY THREE TRUCK-MOUNTED ZU-23 GUNS AND A TRUCK

-- APRIL 29: AT 0605 A VOVJET CONVOY OF SMALL FUEL
TANK TRUCKS WAS STAGED HEADING NORTH ON THE SALANG ROAD.
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.. -- MAY 1: AT 1110 A SOVIET CONVOY CONSISTING OF 12 BTR-80'S
.. AND SEVEN COVERED TRUCKS WAS NOTED MOVING INTO THE CITY
.. ON THE JALALABAD ROAD.

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-- MAY 2: AT 0625, A SOVIET CONVOY OF 39 FUEL TRUCKS
(VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1032), EACH TRUCK CARRYING
THREE FUEL TANKS, WAS NOTED HEADED WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD..

-- MAY 3: AT 0620 A COLUMN OF TEN T-62 TANKS ACCOMPANIED
BY EIGHT SUPPORT VEHICLES WAS OBSERVED MOVING EAST ALONG
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PERIMETER ROAD.

-- COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (CITY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED PARA 4)

(A) (KABUL-WEST): A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTED THAT

MUJAHIDIN KILLED TWO SOVIET SOLDIERS IN THE BEGTUT AREA (34°33'N 68°56'E) ON APRIL 26. A LOCAL RESIDENT OF PAGHMAN TOWN RECENTLY TOLD FOREIGN VISITORS THAT CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT CLAIMS, A MAJOR MOSQUE IN THE TOWN WAS NOT DESTROYED BY MUJAHIDIN BUT RATHER BY REGIME FORCES. A TESTED AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTED THAT A SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLE WAS DESTROYED APRIL 26 WHEN IT STRUCK A MINE IN QALA QADZI (FIVE KMS SOUTHWEST OF KABUL).

(B) (KABUL-NORTH): AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORTED HEAVY SHELLING AND ROCKETING OF VILLAGES IN THE SHOMALI BY SOVIET AND DRA FORCES FROM LATE APRIL UNTIL AT LEAST MAY 1. SOVIET AND DRA TROOPS REPORTEDLY USED ARTILLERY AND BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS AGAIN SHAKA DARA, QARABAGH (PARWAN, ISTALIE, AND DEH WALHI. ELSEWHERE IN THE NORTH, AN AFGHAN REPORTED THAT MUJAHIDIN AMBUSHED AND DESTROYED TWO SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES NEAR MIR BACHA KOG (34°41'N 69°95'E) ON APRIL 16. A DIPLOMAT REPORTED HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE NORTHEAST OF THE CITY BETWEEN 2100 AND 2200, ON MAY 2.

(C) (KABUL-EAST): IN THE TANGI AREA (AT THE EASTERN END OF THE KABUL GORGE), ACCORDING TO A CONFIDENTIAL
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RELIABLE DIPLOMAT, MUJAHIDIN INTERCEPTED TWO REGIME VEHICLES ON APRIL 29, TAKING PRISONER FIVE KHAD OFFICIALS (MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY) RIDING IN A JEEP AND FOUR OCCUPANTS OF A LARGER FOLLOWING VEHICLE.

7. NANGARHAR:

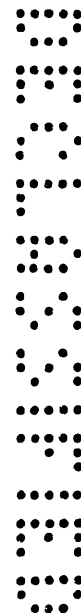
ACCORDING TO RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AT TORA BORA (PHONETIC) IN THE NAZIAN AREA (34°07'N 70°48'E) ON APRIL 21-22, SOVIET FORCES ENGAGED A MUJAHIDIN FORCE DRAWN FROM MOST OF THE SEVEN MAJOR MUJAHIDIN GROUPS. THE SOVIETS HAD RETALIATED AGAINST MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL MUJAHIDIN ATTACK ON A 40-MULE CARAVAN OF WEAPONS AND CURRENCY BELONGING TO A PRO-REGIME TRIBAL GROUP IN THE AREA IN MID-APRIL. THE SOVIET ATTACK AGAINST THE COMBINED MUJAHIDIN FORCE RESULTED IN HEAVY SOVIET LOSSES, INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 50 SOVIETS KILLED, 28 CAPTURED, TWO HELICOPTERS DOWNED (INCLUDING ONE WHICH CRASHED IN JALALABAD CITY AS IT ATTEMPTED TO RETURN TO THE JALALABAD AIRPORT AFTER BEING STRUCK BY GROUND-TO-AIR FIRE) AND TWO JET FIGHTERS. AN UNTESTED DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SEPARATELY REPORTED MUJAHIDIN DOWNED TWO SOVIET HELICOPTERS IN THE NAZIAN AREA ON APRIL 25-26. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTED A LARGE BOMB EXPLODED IN JALALABAD APRIL 24.

8. KUNAR: ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE,

MUJAHIDIN CURRENTLY HAVE THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF
ASADABAD (34'52"N 71'09"E) UNDER SIEGE, ROCKETING IT NIGHTLY.

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9. KUNDUZ: AFGHANS FROM NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN ARE ARRIVING IN

KABUL WITH REPORTS OF EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION BY SOVIET FORCES

IN NORTHERN KUNDUZ AND BADAKHSHAN PROVINCES. AFGHANS CLAIM

THAT SOVIET AND DRA FORCES HAVE CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE REPRISALS

AGAINST CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS, FIRST ENCIRCLING VILLAGES TO BLOCK

CIVILIAN (AND MUJAHIDIN) FLIGHT, AND THEN BOMBARDING THE AREA WITH

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ARTILLERY. (SEE PARA 18, REFTEL).

10. KANDAHAR: CORROBORATING AND ELABORATING ON REPORT PARA 11
REFTEL, A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT RELATES THAT THE MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED
KANDAHAR AIRPORT APRIL 21-22, LAUNCHING BETWEEN 100 AND 130
ROCKETS. BESIDES DESTROYING AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES (REFTEL),
THE ATTACKERS ALSO STRUCK AN AMMO DUMP. A SEPARATE DIPLOMATIC
REPORT FROM AN UNTESTED SOURCE CONTENDS THAT IN THE CHAR BAGH
AREA (PHONETIC, UNLOCATED) MUJAHIDIN DOWNED A SOVIET FIXED-WING

AIRCRAFT ON APRIL 12. AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON THE AVERAGE OF TWO FLIGHTS A DAY TRANSPORT WOUNDED FROM KANDAHAR TO KABUL. THERE ARE IN ADDITION, APPROXIMATELY TWO DAILY FLIGHTS OF WOUNDED FROM THE HERAT AREA TO KANDAHAR, WITH MANY OF THESE BEING TRANSFERRED SUBSEQUENTLY TO KABUL.

11. WARDAK: THREE AFGHAN SOURCES, INCLUDING ONE DRA OFFICER, REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING ON APRIL 27 IN AND AROUND MAIDAN SHAHR, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. THE OFFICER CLAIMS THAT HE HEARD THE FIGHTING FOR THREE HOURS DURING THE AFTERNOON. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER AFGHAN SOURCE, THE FIGHTING ERUPTED WHEN MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED SOVIET AND DRA BASES NEAR MAIDAN SHAHR. A THIRD AFGHAN REPORTS THAT FIGHTING CONTINUED IN THE AREA UNTIL MAY 1. A NON-AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS HEARING ARTILLERY LATE IN THE EVENING FROM THE DIRECTION OF MAIDAN SHAHR EARLY IN THE REPORTING WEEK. AN AFGHAN CLAIMS THAT SOVIETS TORTURE WOUNDED MUJAHIDIN CAPTIVES TO LEARN THE LOCATION OF MUJAHIDIN CAMPS IN THE AREA. THE SOVIETS ALSO REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED MUJAHIDIN COMMUNICATIONS. (MUJAHIDIN ARE EQUIPPED WITH RELATIVELY SIMPLE HAND-HELD RADIOS.) A FEMALE RESIDENT OF MAIDAN SHAHR DESCRIBED THE TOWN TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT AS POPULATED LARGELY BY WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD MEN. SOME MAIDAN SHAHR RESIDENTS FLED TO KABUL DURING THE WEEK TO ESCAPE THE FIGHTING.

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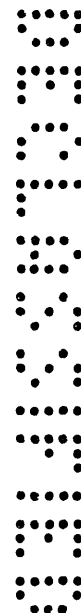
12. GHAZNI: A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 27 MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED ONE SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLE AND A SECOND VEHICLE AT BANDI-SANDI, APPROXIMATELY TEN KMS WEST OF GHAZNI. THE SAME SOURCE ADDS THAT ON APRIL 28 MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED A SOVIET VEHICLE INSIDE GHAZNI CITY. A SEPARATE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS HEAVY RECENT FIGHTING NEAR BAND-I-SULTAN (33°46'N 68°23'E). THE SAME SOURCE CLAIMS THAT WHEREAS THE TRIP FROM KABUL TO GHAZNI FORMERLY TOOK TWO HOURS, IT NOW TAKES FROM FIVE TO SIX HOURS BECAUSE OF BAD ROAD CONDITIONS.

13. BALKH: AN UNTESTED AFGHAN SOURCE TOLD A RELIABLE WESTERN SOURCE THAT MUJAHIDIN FIRED FOUR TO FIVE ROCKETS INTO MAZAR-I-SHARIF ON APRIL 27. TWO OTHER AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF HAS BEEN INCREASED LATELY, WITH TANKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS IN THE CITY IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS.

LOGAR: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT CLAIMS THAT FIGHTING IS HEAVY IN MANY PARTS OF LOGAR. THERE REPORTEDLY ARE THREE PROMINENT MUJAHIDIN LEADERS IN THE PROVINCE: MUSTAFA BABA (HEZBI ISLAMI), SUFI AKHBAR (HARAKAT) AND MOHD ALAM (EBHE MILI) (SPELLINGS ALL PHONETIC).

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15. PAKTIA: AN AFGHAN RELATES THAT MOST FLIGHTS FROM KABUL TO KHOST AND GARDEZ ARE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF GROUND-TO-AIR THREAT IN THE PAKTIA AREA. A SEPARATE REPORT FROM A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT STATES THAT MUJAHIDIN DOWNED ONE JET AND ONE HELICOPTER NEAR KHOST IN THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL.

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16. JAUZJAN: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS FOOD PRICES HAVE BEEN RISING SHARPLY IN THIS NORTHERN PROVINCE.

17. BADGHIS: ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY, SOVIET AND DRA FORCES SUFFERED 20 KILLED IN FIGHTING IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL.

18. HERAT: A DIPLOMAT OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY REPORTS THAT IN LATE APRIL SEVERAL CIVILIANS WERE INJURED BY SOVIET-EMPLOYED CHEMICAL

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WEAPONS. SOME VICTIMS REPORTEDLY WERE TAKEN TO MAHHAD, IRAN FOR TREATMENT. (COMMENT: AT THIS POINT THIS IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT. END COMMENT).

19. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (KARMAL TO PRISON?): A USUALLY RELIABLE DIPLOMAT ALLEGES THAT FORMER PARTY AND REGIME LEADER BABRAK KARMAL IS NOW IN PUL-I-CHARKHI PRISON. THE REGIME REPORTEDLY PLACED HIM THERE IN LATE APRIL TO PRECLUDE ANY POSSIBLE RALLYING AROUND HIM DURING THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE "SAUR REVOLUTION." ANOTHER VERSION CLAIMS HE IS NO LONGER LIVING AT HIS RESIDENCE NEAR THE ARG PALACE THOUGH HIS WIFE AND HALF BROTHER, BARYALAI, STILL RESIDE THERE.

(COMMENT: WE VIEW THE ABOVE WITH SUSPICION, BUT NOTE THE STORY HAS BEEN CARRIED IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEDIA. END COMMENT.)

(B) (GENEVA PROXIMITY TALKS): RELIABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF GENEVA PROXIMITY TALKS TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR MAY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.

(C) (NATIONAL RECONCILIATION): REGIME OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT THE NUMBER OF AFGHANS ALLEGEDLY RETURNING TO THEIR HOMELAND UNDER THE OFFICIAL "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" POLICY. ON APRIL 16 THE KABUL NEW TIMES CARRIED A REPORT SOURCED TO THE "DEPARTMENT FOR REPATRIATES" WHICH CLAIMED THAT OVER 52,000 AFGHANS HAD RETURNED. THE SPECIAL "SAUR

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REVOLUTION" EDITION OF THE KABUL NEW TIMES (APRIL 26) CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE CLAIM THAT "44,000 REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO HOMELAND." FOREIGN MINISTER WAKIL IN AN APRIL 26 SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE "REVOLUTION" ANNIVERSARY STATED: "...NEARLY 35,000 OF OUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE RETURNED SO FAR TO THEIR HOMELAND."

(D) (RESUMPTION OF PRESS GANG ACTIVITY IN KABUL): A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS TWO INCIDENTS OF YOUNG MALES BEING PULLED OFF THE STREET FOR CONSCRIPTION INTO THE MILITARY SERVICE. REGIME SECURITY PERSONNEL ALSO HAVE RESUMED HOUSE SEARCHES. A MEDICAL OFFICIAL WHO REFUSED TO RESIGN HIS POSITION IN A REGIME MEDICAL FACILITY HAD HIS HOUSE SEARCHED. A DARI-LANGUAGE VERSION OF A RECENT WEST GERMAN INTERVIEW WITH KING ZAHIR SHAH WAS FOUND AND CONFISCATED ALONG WITH OTHER MATERIALS.

20. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (MARKET SURVEY): A SURVEY OF 50 COMMODITIES IN THE KABUL MARKET AT THE END OF APRIL INDICATED THAT PRICES FOR MOST STAPLES WERE UNCHANGED. SUGAR REMAINS SCARCE, WITH LARGE UNRULY CROWDS FORMING AROUND REGIME OUTLETS WHERE IT IS SOLD. REGIME RATIONS FOR SUGAR REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY TWO-THIRDS. THE U.S. DOLLAR HAS CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN AGAINST THE AFGHANI WITH THE PRICE FOR ONE USD RISING TO 165 AFGHANIS, AN INCREASE OF ALMOST TWO PERCENT IN ONE MONTH. THE BRITISH POUND LEADS ALL OTHER CURRENCIES, WITH A ONE MONTH INCREASE IN VALUE OF NINE PERCENT.

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INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSD-00 HA-09 L-03
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 RP-10 ACDA-12 SP-02
SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 P-02 T-01 /077 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6424

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1677

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//

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(8) (TWO TU-154'S DELIVERED TO KABUL): TWO TU-154 PASSENGER
AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN KABUL FROM THE SOVIET UNION THIS WEEK. THEIR
ARRIVAL HAS NOT BEEN GREETED WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM. THE AIRCRAFT
WILL COST APPROXIMATELY 6,000 USD PER HOUR TO OPERATE AS COMPARED
WITH A FIGURE OF 2,500 FOR THE DRA'S BAKHTAR AIRLINES' B-727'S.
THE TU-154, MOREOVER, IS STRICTLY A PASSENGER AIRCRAFT AND CANNOT
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BE CONVERTED TO HAUL FREIGHT AS CAN THE B-727. CARGO AND PASSENGER
LOADS FOR THE TU-154 WILL BE RESTRICTED DURING SUMMER MONTHS BECAUSE
OF KABUL'S ALTITUDE. THE B-727 FACES MUCH LESS SERIOUS LIMITATIONS.
WHILE THE TU-154 MAY BE USED ON SOME LONGER DOMESTIC FLIGHTS AS WELL
AS INTERNATIONAL ROUTES, IT APPEARS NOT LIKELY TO MATCH THE 727'S
PERCENT OF UTILIZATION. OBSERVERS CONCLUDE THAT FINANCIALLY WEAK
BAKHTAR AIRLINES HAS ACQUIRED AN INEFFICIENT AND INAPPROPRIATE
AIRCRAFT.

(C) (SHIPPING PROBLEMS): A WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS REPORTS LARGE

BACKLOGS OF KABUL-BOUND GOODS AT THE HAIRATAN CROSSING POINT (ON THE AFGHAN-SOVIET BORDER). OBSERVERS CLAIM THE CAUSE IS THE REGIME'S PRACTICE OF AWARDED CONTRACTS FOR FREIGHT FORWARDING TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, EVEN IF THE BID IS FAR BELOW ACTUAL COSTS. THE RESULT IS THAT NEEDED GOODS ARE OFTEN STRANDED AT THE BORDER FOR MONTHS, WITH WOULD-BE SHIPPERS OUT OF FUNDS. A GAS TURBINE ORDERED FROM SWITZERLAND, FOR USE IN KABUL ENERGY PRODUCTION, NOW IS TRAPPED IN THIS SHIPPING SYSTEM BLOCKAGE.

21. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 20 SOVIET BOMBERS ACCIDENTLY STRUCK A DRA UNIT THINKING IT WAS A MUJAHIDIN TARGET. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WHICH WE CONSIDER UNCONFIRMED, 100 DRA TROOPS AND 14 VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED IN THE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE NEAR KABUL.

22. (COVERAGE OF THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAUR REVOLUTION): KABUL MEDIA DEVOTED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE "SAUR REVOLUTION," THE CENTER-PIECE OF WHICH WAS A LARGE RALLY-PARADE. THE PARADE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN DISPLAY AND A LACK-LUSTER MILITARY PRESENTATION. GUEST OF HONOR AT THE FUNCTION WAS LEV YERMIN, MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR AND FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE RUSSIAN REPUBLIC.
(B) (FOREIGN MINISTER WAKIL'S REMARKS): IN AN APRIL 26 SPEECH ON
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THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE "REVOLUTION." FOREIGN MINISTER WAKIL MADE SEVERAL CURIOUS REMARKS. IN ADDITION TO REDUCING THE COUNT OF THOSE AFGHAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN FROM 52,000 TO LESS THAN 35,000 (PARA 19, C) WAKIL, SPEAKING OF DIVISION OF POWER WITH "OTHER SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FORCES," OBSERVED THAT "THE POPA WOULD REMAIN TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE AS THE VANGUARD, GUIDING, AND COORDINATING FORCE OF THE SOCIETY...WITHOUT GIVING UP ITS POLITICAL RULE AND RESPONSIBILITY." SPEAKING ABOUT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, HE APPEARED TO CONCEDE THAT THE MUJAHIDIN CONTROL A PORTION OF AFGHANISTAN AND ITS TERRITORY, NOTING THAT "OUR POLICY SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO AREAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE OPPOSITION." APPARENTLY QUESTIONING THE REGIME'S CEASEFIRE CALL, WAKIL COMMENTED: "DEFENSE AND MILITARY BUILDUP MUST BE STRENGTHENED. PASSIVITY OF SOME UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES MUST BE ELIMINATED."

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INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
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	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	RP-10	ACDA-12	SP-02
	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	P-02	T-01	/077 W
				-----353536 041238Z /42			

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6425
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
USIA WASHDC 1678
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLENA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//

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(C) (SHOOTDOWN OF PAKISTANI AIRCRAFT): KABUL MEDIA CLAIMED
THAT DRA AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN A PAKISTANI F-16 APRIL 29 AFTER IT
HAD ALLEGEDLY INTRUDED INTO DRA AIRSPACE.

23 DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS: THE REGIME RECEIVED TWO IMPORTANT
VISITORS DURING THE WEEK: CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK SPENT
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ALMOST FOUR DAYS IN KABUL: THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVED IN
KABUL ON MAY 3 WITH PLANS TO DEPART ON MAY 5.

24. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

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[REDACTED]

(B) (LEAGUE OF RED CROSS TO LAUNCH OPERATIONS IN KABUL).

A LEAGUE OF RED CROSS TEAM ARRIVED IN KABUL IN LATE APRIL TO PREPARE FOR A LEAGUE PROGRAM IN THE CITY, INCLUDING THE REORGANIZATION AND RE-EQUIPPING OF TEN EMERGENCY CENTERS AND A RED CRESCENT HOSPITAL.

(C) (ERMACORA TO KABUL?): THE UNDP RESREP CLAIMS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS RAPPORTEUR FOR AFGHANISTAN, FELIX ERMACORA, WILL COME TO AFGHANISTAN (NO DATE GIVEN).

(D) (DRA -SOVIET DIALOGUE ABOUT BORDER ATTACKS): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CLAIMS THAT FOLLOWING MARCH AND APRIL MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS INTO SOVIET TERRITORY, THE SOVIET UNION ELICITED AND "APOLOGY" FROM THE DRA AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT IT HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT INTRUSIONS INTO SOVIET TERRITORY OR SHELLING OF SOVIET TERRITORY FROM AFGHANISTAN.

(E) (AUSTRIA NEXT TO FACE DRA/SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE?):

IN ADDITION TO FACING PRESSURE FROM THE SAUDIS TO HOST A DRA INTEREST SECTION IN THE COUNTRY, (FOLLOWING SAUDI CLOSING OF THE DRA MISSION IN JIDDAH) THE AUSTRIANS REPORTEDLY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DRA INTEREST IN OPENING AN EMBASSY IN VIENNA. (COMMENT: AUSTRIA IS REPRESENTED BY A SMALL MISSION IN KABUL HEADED BY A CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.)

25. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EALUM.

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